New tariff plan for ports

2742. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is planning new tariff plans for ports before inviting bids for cargo handling projects; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Government has issued 'Guidelines for upfront tariff setting for Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects at Major Port Trusts, 2008'. Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP) shall fix tariff caps for handling various commodities or providing various services by private operators licensed by Major Ports under the provisions of the Major Port Trusts Act. Once tariff caps are set for handling different commodities or providing various services for a port, they would apply to all terminals that are bid out subsequently in the same port during the next five years for handling identical commodity or for providing similar services. For fixing up upfront tariff, TAMP shall follow normative cost based approach and tariff caps are indexed to the variation in wholesale price index in the manner provided in the guidelines.

Private bodies to conduct vehicle tests

2743. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to allow private bodies to conduct vehicle tests and to recommend issuance of licences;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has been met with stiff resistance; and

(d) if so, the action taken to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Proviso to Section 9(3) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 already provides that in the case of non-transport vehicle, the licensing authority may exempt the applicant from the test of competence to drive a vehicle, if he/she possesses a driving certificate issued by any institution recognised in this behalf by the State Government. In the comprehensive proposal for amendment of the Act, introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 15th May, 2007, it has been proposed that an automobile association may also be recognized by the State Governments for this purpose. Besides, this provision is also proposed to be made applicable in respect of learner's licence for non-transport vehicle.

(c) The All India Federation of Motor Vehicles Department Technical Executive Officer's Association has suggested to delete these provisions.

(d) The demand of the Association has not been acceded to as there is need to create more test facilities in the private sector because of the inadequate infrastructure in the State Transport Departments and the increasing demand for driving licences for non transport vehicles. The Ministry, however, has reiterated in the proposal that the power to grant driving licence would rest with the State Transport authorities and not to the said institutions or automobile associations.